

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-01 /012 W

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R 050715Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8662

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STADIS//////////

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, KS

SUBJ: E/C SECTION STAFFING

FOR COLANTONIO ONLY FROM AMBASSADOR

REF: STATE 044593

1. I INTEND TO DISCUSS E/C SECTION STAFFING AND OUR PROPOSALS FOR NEW STATE POSITION WITH YOU AND PER AT MUCH GREATER LENGTH AFTER MY ARRIVAL ON CONSULTATION MARCH 14. IN MEANTIME, HOWEVER, WISH TO SUBMIT FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY COMMENTS IN RESPONSE REFTEL.

2. YOUR DESCRIPTION (REFTEL PARA 2) OF EMBASSY'S PRESENT ECON/COMMERCIAL SETUP IS SLIGHTLY ASKEW. THERE ARE TWO DISTINCT AND SEPARATE ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL UNITS, BOTH OF WHICH ARE UNDER AND REPORT DIRECTLY TO MIKE ADLER IN HIS CAPACITY AS ECONOMIC COUNSELOR (NOT AS AID MISSION DIRECTOR). ECONOMIC UNIT, ACCORDING TO OUR RECORDS, COMPRISSES THREE POSITIONS CLASSIFIED AT R-3, O-3, AND O-4. THESE POSITIONS ARE NOW OCCUPIED BY GLEN LEHMANN, AN R-2 AID OFFICER, WALTER H. DREW, JUST NOMINATED FOR PROMOTION TO FSO-2, AND DONALD F. MC CONVILLE, FSO-4. NUMBER AND CLASSIFICATION OF OFFICERS IN COMMERCIAL UNIT ARE AS STATED IN REFTEL.

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3. THRUST OF EMBASSY'S PROPOSAL IS TO BRING STRUCTURE

AND PERSONNEL INTO LINE WITH REALITY OF PROJECTED AID MISSION PHASE DOWN BY PLACING OVERALL DIRECTION OF EMBASSY'S ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND RESIDUAL AID AFFAIRS UNDER STATE OFFICER. TO THIS END, WE HAVE PROPOSED IMMEDIATE ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE POSITION IN ECONOMIC UNIT AT SENIOR O-2 LEVEL. THIS OFFICER, UPON ARRIVAL AT POST, WOULD ASSUME DIRECTION OF ECONOMIC UNIT. LEHMANN, WHO IS SUPERB ECONOMIC ANALYST, WOULD REMAIN IN SEOUL UNTIL COMPLETION OF HIS PRESENT TOUR, PRE-SUMABLY SUMMER OF 1976. WE FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT STATE OFFICER WOULD BE BETTER QUALIFIED TO ENSURE THAT UNIT IS RESPONSIVE OVERALL ECONOMIC REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. WE HAVE ASKED THAT STATE OFFICER ASSIGNED TO NEW POSITION BE GIVEN COUNSELOR RANK.

4. EMBASSY ANTICIPATES THAT ADLER WILL REMAIN IN SEOUL FOR ANOTHER 15-16 MONTHS. BY THAT TIME, SINCE AID PERSONNEL WILL HAVE UNDERGONE FURTHER REDUCTION, ADLER'S REPLACEMENT SHOULD ALSO BE HIGHLY QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED STATE OFFICER, WE ARE, THEREFORE, SUGGESTING THAT ADLER NOW BE GIVEN MINISTER-COUNSELOR RANK AND THAT DEPARTMENT BE PREPARED TO REPLACE HIM WITH FSO-1 STATE OFFICER TO WHOM A SIMILAR RANK COULD ALSO BE GIVEN. THIS WOULD LEAVE US IN POSITION ANALOGOUS TO EMBASSY TOKYO WITH SENIOR STATE ECONOMIC OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ALL ECONOMIC FUNCTIONS OF EMBASSY. LATTER WOULD BE DISCHARGED BY AID UNIT UNDER AID OFFICIAL, ECONOMIC UNIT UNDER STATE ECONOMIC COUNSELOR AND COMMERCIAL UNIT (INCLUDING TRADE CENTER) UNDER STATE COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR, ALL REPORTING TO STATE APPOINTED ECONOMIC MINISTER.

5. THIS IS THE EMBASSY'S PREFERRED ARRANGEMENT FOR THE FUTURE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE ALTERNATIVES (2) OR (3) SUGGESTED IN PARA 3 REFTEL WOULD MEET ECONOMIC REQUIREMENTS AT THIS INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ECONOMIC POST. IN PARTICULAR, BECAUSE OF CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RESIDUAL AID AND ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES, WE WISH TO CONTINUE SYSTEM WHEREBY ONE OFFICER, EITHER AID OR STATE, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALL ECONOMIC ACTIONS AT POST.

6. WE RECOGNIZE HIGHLY COMPETENT ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL OFFICERS NOT EASY TO FIND, PARTICULARLY AT CLASS TWO LEVEL. NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE DETERMINED TO UPGRADE LEVEL OF OUR EFFORTS IN THESE AREAS, CONSONANT WITH INCREASING IMPORTANCE OF U.S. ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN KOREA.

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